

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A system for selectively securing a personal computer comprising
a system unit including a first port dedicated to connecting an input device
and a second port for connecting an other device;
an input device connected to the system unit through the first port;
a switch for selectively locking out user input, said switch connected to both
the first port and the second port, with said switch operating to prevent user input
both through the input device and through a device connected to the other port.
2. A system for selectively securing a personal computer including the elements of
Claim 1 wherein the input device includes a keyboard connected to the system unit
through a dedicated keyboard port and the switch includes means for
simultaneously locking out user input to the system unit from the keyboard and
from a device attached to the other port.
3. A system for selectively securing a personal computer including the elements of
Claim 1 wherein the other port couples a standard input/output device to the
system unit for communication and the switch prevents the standard input/output
device coupled to the other port from communicating with the system unit when the
input device is locked out against user input.

1 4. A method of operating a personal computer having a system unit with a first
2 interface to a keyboard and an other interface through which an external device
3 may also be coupled to the system unit, the steps of the method comprising:

4 providing a device for selectively locking out the keyboard, preventing user
5 input at the keyboard from affecting the system unit;

6 providing a lock on the other interface for selectively locking that interface
7 against inputs from the external device from affecting the system unit; and

8 coupling the switch on the other interface to the external device for
9 selectively locking out the keyboard so that when the keyboard is locked out, an
10 input from the external device is prevented from affecting the system unit.

1 5. A method of securing a personal computer including the steps of Claim 4
2 wherein the step of coupling the switch to selectively lock out the keyboard and an
3 input from the external device occurs during the initial start up of the personal
4 computer.

1 6. A method of securing a personal computer including the steps of Claim 4
2 wherein the step of coupling the switch to selectively lock out the keyboard and
3 input from the external device occurs whenever the keyboard is secured against
4 user input.

1 7. A computer system comprising:

2 a keyboard;

3 a processor connected by a system bus to the keyboard;

4 a first switch disposed between the keyboard and the processor to
5 selectively prevent user inputs from the keyboard from being processed by the
6 processor;

7 an interface for connecting an input/output peripheral to the processor; and

8 a second switch connected between the interface to the input/output
9 peripheral and the processor for selectively preventing input from the input/output
10 processor from being processed by the processor; and

11 a connection between said first switch and said second switch to coordinate
12 the switching of the first and second switches so that when a user input at the
13 keyboard is prevented from being processed at the processor, an input from the
14 input/output peripheral is also prevented from being processed by the processor.

1 8. A computer system of the type described in Claim 7 where the connection

2 between the first and second switches also enables a user input at the input/output
3 peripheral to be processed by the processor when the keyboard is enabled.

1 9. A computer system comprising:

2 a keyboard for receiving a user input and transmitting it to a processor

3 through a keyboard interface;

4 a processor coupled to the keyboard interface for receiving a user input at
5 the keyboard;

6 at least one bus port operatively coupled to the processor for providing an
7 alternate connection for user input at an input device;

8 a lock connected to keyboard and controlled for selectively preventing input
9 to the processor from the keyboard, with said bus port also being coupled to the
10 lock so that user input from the input device connected to at least one bus port is
11 prevented from reaching the processor when the lock prevents user inputs from the
12 keyboard from reaching the processor.

1 10. A computer of the type described in Claim 9 where the computer includes a
2 first lock system on the keyboard and a second lock system on at least one port,
3 with said first and second lock systems being coupled to have the same locked and
4 unlocked condition at any given time, whereby, when the keyboard attached to the
5 keyboard port is locked, an input device connected to the at least one port is also
6 locked.

1 11. A method of securing a personal computer which includes a processor
2 operatively connected to a serial bus and to a keyboard, the steps of the method
3 comprising:

4 providing a lock associated with the keyboard for selectively preventing user

5 inputs at the keyboard from being processed by the processor;
6 coupling the serial bus to the lock associated with the keyboard so that the
7 keyboard and the serial bus are in the same state of being either locked or
8 unlocked to user input at any time.

1 12. A method of securing a personal computer including the steps of Claim 11 and
2 further including the step of unlocking the keyboard and serial bus in response to
3 the entry of an appropriate password at one of the keyboard and the serial bus.

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